

Status Update to Fellow White Horticulture Park Master Plan Participants:

Since my last update, I and Park Authority staff have met with several community groups to listen to concerns about the future park and specifically about the entrance location. As part of those meetings, clarifications on road improvement requirements have been sought. Additional safety issues, horticultural resource impacts and the question of relative costs have been raised. In response, we have asked VDOT for clarifications on road improvement requirements and are asking for a proposal from an independent engineering firm to conduct a cost analysis. The draft horticultural landscape report that inventories the garden resources and recommends how to preserve and manage the site resources is being reviewed for final completion. When completed, these technical studies will be shared with the public and will assist the Park Authority Board in determining a park entrance location that is safe, meets local and state regulations and specifications, minimizes harm to the park's significant resources and serves future park visitors well. As each report becomes available it will be posted on the project website.

This site is unique in its access challenges and the community discussion has been vigorous. I once again ask for your patience while we await the completion and in-house understanding of these additional studies. We anticipate that the schedule of next steps will be as follows:

January/February – Completion of studies and master plan
March – Board authorization and advertisement of public hearing
April – Public Hearing held
May –30 Day Public comment period
June/July – Board considers approval of Master Plan

Thank you for participating in planning this valuable community asset. Please accept my warm wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Frank S. Vajda
Mason District Representative
Park Authority Board